

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A photosensor system performs a sensitivity-  
adjusting reading operation with respect to a subject  
image, while simultaneously changing the image reading  
sensitivity stepwise for each of rows of a photosensor  
array or for specific rows thereof. The dynamic ranges  
of the lightness data on the read subject image are  
checked to see how they are distributed in relation to  
the image reading sensitivities. On the basis of this  
distribution, an image reading sensitivity that  
contributes to an optimal image reading state is  
extracted as an optimal image reading sensitivity.